



FAMOUS FARMS AT FELLSMERE

The Homeseeker Predicts an
Early Nation Wide Fame

A GREAT DEVELOPMENT

One Million Dollars Being Spent in Drain-
age and Developing This Rich Body
of 115,000 Acres in St. Lucie

But little is known of Fellsmere Farms at present, but it is a certainty that within a reasonable time they will be heralded all over the country as the famous Fellsmere Farms.

The Fellsmere Farms Company owns five townships, or about 115,000 acres of land, in St. Lucie county. This vast tract lies about nine miles west of Sebastian, on the Florida East Coast Railway. The tract is reached by a railroad owned by the company, connecting at Sebastian with the main line of the Florida East Coast Railway, and terminating at present at the town of Fellsmere, on the eastern boundary of the company's tract.

The holdings of the company are divided about as follows: 62,400 acres of black muck land; 42,000 acres of prairie and sandy loam pine land; 3,000 acres of right of way for the railroad; 1,200 acres of virgin cypress land, and 6,000 acres which is covered by Lake Wilmington, a clear body of fresh water, five miles long and three wide, lying on the western side of the tract.

The Fellsmere Farms Company is now engaged in constructing one of the most through drainage systems along the East Coast of Florida. This work was planned by the well-known firm of J. G. White & Company, of New York and London, celebrated for their success in building vast drainage propositions all over the world. Their plans, which are now being executed, embrace a system of gravity drainage of canals, laterals and ditches that will lower the water to more than five feet below the surface of the tract.

Four large excavators, with buckets of one and three quarters cubic yards capacity, are at work day and night on the eastern end of the main canal, which empties into the middle fork of the Sebastian river, just to the north of Sebastian, on the coast. These excavators are working through the pine ridge, which forms an elevation sufficient to impound the water that submerges the vast tract during the rainy season.

At another point, four and one-half miles west from the eastern boundary of the tract, is being constructed an immense two and a half cubic yard bucket dredge, by the American Steel Dredge Company, which will begin work the middle of May on a canal twelve miles in length, from a point where the excavators reach the prairie, westerly to the western boundary of the tract, and from thence southerly to and through Lake Wilmington, to the southern boundary of the company's land.

While this is being done another steel dredge, with bucket of one and a half cubic yards capacity, will be constructed to cut some of the main laterals from north to south through the four townships, while the excavators will be kept at work digging main laterals through the sandy loam soil south and north through the eastern portion of the tract. And when all of this equipment is at work on main canals and laterals, smaller machines will be employed in cutting sub-laterals, or ditches between the sub-divisions of ten-acre farms.

Without doubt this is the most thorough system of drainage ever undertaken by a land promoting company in this or any other State. It represents an expenditure of about one million dollars, and it will be fully assured of final completion before any of the land of the company is fully paid for and ready for occupancy.

The operations of the Fellsmere Farms Company has been known in the vicinity of its property for the past year, but there has been practically nothing published up to the present time, for the reason that the company has shunned publicity, preferring to devote all the time, energy and money to development work.

One observes evidences of substantial development upon entraining at Sebastian. On the spur paralleling the main line of the Florida East Coast Railway will be seen either the locomotive, passenger coach and freight cars of the Fellsmere Farms Company, or the company's motor car. The main line of the company is eleven and a half miles, taking passengers and freight direct to the town of Fellsmere.

At Fellsmere signs of progress and development are seen on all sides. First, there is the demonstration farm of the company, in charge of R. A. Conkling, formerly of Tillman, where he was for years a successful truck-gardener and fruit-grower. Mr. Conkling has ten acres under cultivation, and his garden has produced, and is now producing, all the vegetables that are grown anywhere in the southern portion of Florida, and in abundance.

Scattered about the townsite of Fellsmere are about a dozen substantial

structures, including the Fellsmere hotel, which is always filled to its capacity; and administration building, in which General Manager Ernest H. Every and his corps of engineers, draughtsmen, superintendents and office force do the work of the company's development; the manager's home, the home of the manager of the demonstration farm, the farm house, with a capacity of one hundred, ready for the homeseekers when they arrive; homes for superintendents, two stores, railway station, townsite office, a fifty-foot tower, from the top of which is an excellent view of the pine, prairie and muck lands of the company, and the scene of excavating and dredging operations to the north, showing an extension of the company's railroad of four and a half miles running to what is called the dredge camp.

It is quite possible that many buildings on the property have been overlooked, but mention must be made of the model camp of Superintendent Emory, at the side of the huge embankment which is being thrown up by the four excavators. Some idea of what they are doing is gained from the statement of Manager Every, borne out by Superintendent Emory, that these four excavators are digging a canal fifty feet on the bottom, one hundred and fifty feet at the top, and about eighteen feet deep, and are going at the rate of one mile a month. Some idea of the cost of equipment is had in the statement that the large steel dredge will cost between thirty and thirty-five thousand dollars. It is expected that the big dredge will go a mile a month through the prairie soil and muck. It will dig a canal of the same width, top and bottom, but will not have to go so deep, as the excavators in going four and a half miles have to move as much earth as will the dredge in going eight miles.

The tract owned by the Fellsmere Farms Company has been celebrated among land men for its fertility and richness of soil for many years. Perhaps it is better known as the Cincinnatus Farms tract, owned by the Russells for many years. Before that it was known as one of the old land grants. It is at the headwaters of the St. Johns river, and consists largely of prairie and muck. The prairie is a sandy loam soil, with a clay subsoil, such as is the choice of the horticulturist for citrus culture, and of the truckman for all sorts of vegetables. Of what value this soil will prove to be (continued on page 4)

THE CECILIAN CLUB TO PRESENT CANTATA

An event of unusual interest to all music lovers will be the presentation of a cantata, "The Healing of Naaman," given by the Cecilian Choral Club, on Tuesday evening, May 2nd.

They have been working upon this for some time, and are preparing to give it in costumes fitting to the parts and the times.

The solo parts are taken by Mrs. D. T. McCarty, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. McCombs, Rolf Gunst and Rev. Harry McCombs. Mrs. Horton accompanist. A chorus of twenty-five voices supports the soloists, and includes a male quartet.

Special interest attaches to the fact that this is probably the last chance we shall have to hear Rolf Gunst sing. He leaves the day following for New York City. He sings the part of Naaman.

Mrs. Scott, who has not been heard here before in solo work, has a voice of fine quality. She takes the part of Naaman's wife.

Mrs. McCarty fills the part of the Queen with her characteristic grace, and Mrs. McCombs as Iran the priest, and Mrs. McCombs as the captive Hebrew maid complete the cast.

Do not fail to hear this. Tickets at 35 cents each are on sale now at the St. Lucie Drug Store.

CLOSING EXERCISES OF KINDERGARTEN CLASS

The closing exercises of Mrs. Shorer's kindergarten class, last Friday morning, was very entertaining, and the little folks reflected much credit upon their teacher, and showed careful training.

Mrs. Shorer not only teaches them the little drills, songs, marches, letters and numbers, but all the little things that are so often neglected at home, and are the first foundation in the making of perfect ladies and gentlemen.

Mrs. Shorer is much interested in the work, and the three months she had the little class, certainly did excellent work with the little minds she had to train.

The patrons hope this class will be reopened early in the fall, and would suggest that could a suitable room more centrally located be secured, more of the parents of Fort Pierce would send their little ones where they could receive such good motherly care.

The little children were allowed to serve the guests to refreshments and it can truthfully be said, a company of grown people could not have done better in serving the delicious ice cream, cakes and buns.

We heartily congratulate Mrs. Shorer upon her work and believe her kindergarten a fine opportunity for the small children of Fort Pierce.

FORT PIERCE IMPRESSIONS

Recent Visitor Enthusiastic for
Future of This Section

SPRIT OF PROGRESS

"Everybody Has Faith in The Future of
Fort Pierce, and Everybody Was Most
Courteous to Answer Questions

Washington, D. C., April 22, 1911.
Editor ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE:

When I had the pleasure of visiting your little city a month or so ago you very kindly suggested that, after my return home I should write my "impressions." I am almost afraid to attempt it for it may take the form of an advertisement and I may be termed a "booster" for at the very beginning of these "impressions" I want to whisper that I "got sand in my shoes" and ever since I have reached home I have talked Florida in my waking hours and dreamed of the "land of sunshine and flowers" when sleeping. Perhaps the beauty of your smiling country impressed me more by comparison than any other way, for since reaching Washington I have found nothing but cold, rainy, disagreeable weather, so miserable that one can not help but long for the warm, sunny Southland. Yet I must say that for a "dry town" I found Fort Pierce the "wettest" place I ever saw, the Friday after my arrival there, the wind blew a gale and the rain poured in torrents but when it stopped the roads quickly dried and nature smiled through her tears.

What impressed me most? is a question which first suggests itself. The answer I unhesitatingly give is the unanimous spirit of "boosting" among the Fort Pierceites. Everybody had a good word to say for Fort Pierce. Everybody had faith in its future, everybody had faith in his neighbors, everybody talked with evident sincerity and everybody was unflinching courteous and ready to answer questions. And I asked plenty of them, nobody escaped me, the young man at the drug store, the affable cashier at the bank, the smiling young lady at the typewriter, the boatman, the automobile repair man, the maid, the matron, the children, every one smilingly answered questions and all praised Fort Pierce, its wonderful climate, its choice fish, its early vegetables, its far famed Indian River oranges, its pineapples. In fact, in all my quest I only found one man with a "grouch" and he, poor soul was working too hard to appreciate his blessings. Were I writing an advertisement of the Florida East Coast Realty Co. I would elaborate upon the courtesy shown me by Judge Andrews when he took me out to visit the Fort Pierce Farms, the property of this company, but suffice to say I found the Judge most entertaining and convincing and I did not, in my further travels south find anyone who so patiently explained situations or so faithfully answered questions. In fact I found all the men of that company that I had the pleasure of meeting sincere, honest appearing men, whose chief desire was not to secure "suckers," nor to paint glowing word pictures of impossible crops and unparalleled profits, but to secure people to purchase their farms who would become useful citizens and who would in turn try to make St. Lucie county one of the solid, reliable countries of Florida, and it was this "impression" that I carried home with me and have frequently referred to it.

I wish I had time and space to describe a couple of visits I made. One to the beautiful grove managed by Mr. Sidney Williams and the other to the Koblegard Pineapple Plantation. The latter place I visited on Monday, March 27th. We were taken up the Indian River, that beautiful poetic river, in Mr. Koblegard's fine new motor boat and after we reached the plantation, were driven all over the place with one of the foremen who very kindly explained every thing we asked of him, and then were graciously entertained to luncheon in Mr. Koblegard's charming bungalow, by Mr. Koblegard's equally charming wife; returning to town late in the afternoon via the river.

My visit to Mr. Williams' grove was made in company with the "Judge." We found Mr. Williams very busy packing oranges but he stopped the process (continued on page 4)

SYNOPSIS OF CANTATA "HEALING OF NAAMAN"

The Cantata to be given by the Cecilian Choral Club May 2, is the story of the Healing of Naaman.

The scene is laid in Damascus capital of Syria. Iran, a young Hebrew prophet, and some of the Hebrew captives are first seen, in a garden.

The prophet announces the return of Naaman, the victorious captain of the Syrian Army, who is hailed as conqueror by the Syrian people and priests. While this is going on in the streets, Iran in the garden prophesies the erection of an altar to Jehovah.

A cloud of gloom is cast over the

celebration of Naaman's return by the fact that he is smitten with the dread disease of leprosy.

Naaman's wife and the Queen lament and appeal to the Gods of Syria with no real hope of help.

But there is among the captives a little maid, who, is a personal servant of Naaman's wife. When the great general returns from the presence of the company she addresses the Queen (Elisha) who can heal all manner of sickness and who even restored the life of the Shunemite lad.

The Queen and Naaman's wife hear with astonishment and become convinced that Naaman has a chance to be healed if he will go to see this prophet. They call him in and tell him of their new hope. He determines to go to Samaria in search of the prophet—and health. Iran prays that he may return healed and answer the captives' prayer for an altar to Jehovah.

Then follows the storm song by Iran and the night song by the maid, both typifying the darkness and dread of doubt and despair, and the beauty and joy of hope and redemption.

The second act discloses the Queen singing to the beautiful river, Abana. The Syrian priests are again heard singing to Rimmon, the Sun-God.

The glad tidings are brought that Naaman is returning healed.

Directly Naaman himself appears, restored and jubilant, filled with songs of praise to Jehovah, who has healed him. "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth but Jehovah."

He brings with him "two burden" of earth from the Jordan, and they make the altar to Jehovah. A glad song of praise and thanksgiving is then sung by the Queen, Naaman's wife, the Hebrew Maid, Naaman and Iran.

The Queen sends for roses and a wreath is made with which she crowns the Hebrew maid.

All join in the final chorus, a song of faith Triumphant, of prayer and praise to the King eternal—Jehovah.

Dancing Class to Repeat Program

Miss McClinton wishes to announce that her Dancing Classes will repeat the program of Society Dances which was given in the Town Hall, Jensen, April 11th, on Friday eve, April 28. Commencing promptly at 8 o'clock. After 9:30 the spectators will be cordially invited to participate in a popular program of dances. All are cordially invited. Admission 25 cents.

AS-YOU-LIKE-IT CLUB FINELY ENTERTAINED

The pleasant home of Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Rollins on Palmetto avenue was the scene of much merriment, Tuesday evening, when Doctor and Mrs. Rollins entertained the "As-You-Like-It" club, their husbands, and sweethearts.

The club game, five hundred, was enjoyed for a couple of hours, when the score cards were collected and the bell tapped for another move and a progressive supper of three courses was played eagerly and attentively.

The first course consisted of bullion and wafers followed by a second of chicken sandwiches, olives and coffee, the third, delicious cake with fruit and nut jello served with whipped cream.

After this the gentlemen were served with cigars and the ladies with mints. Mrs. Rollins presented each guest with a dainty little favor, the ladies' favor being a fan with the advice to "keep cool and perhaps they would win next time," while the gentlemen received a decorated pencil, and told "to keep their own score and they might win."

Mrs. Rollins was assisted in serving by Mrs. F. L. Hemmings and her sister, Miss Florence Colmar, who is her guest, and in whose honor the party was given. At a late hour the guests departed voting Dr. and Mrs. Rollins unexcelled as host and hostess.

NOTICE TO PATRONS FORT PIERCE SCHOOL

Please take notice that a meeting of the patrons of the Fort Pierce School will be held at the School house, Saturday, April 29th, at 2 o'clock p. m. for the purpose of deciding on the different plans proposed of conducting the school for the next term. All parents or guardians having children to attend at the next term of school are urgently requested to attend the meeting.

This meeting is called to get an expression of the patrons so the Board can decide on a plan most satisfactory to the patrons and for the best interest of the school. Patrons not attending this meeting are supposed to abide by the decision of the School Board on any plans that may be adopted in consequence of the expression of the patrons present. Please attend the meeting if you can possibly do so.

A. C. DITTMAR
E. C. WILSON
F. E. SUMMERLIN, Jr. Trustees.

The supreme court of the United States declares: "If a loss of revenue should accrue to the United States from a diminished consumption of ardent spirits it will be the gainer a thousand folds in the health, wealth and happiness of its people."

BRYAN MAKES ABLE SPEECH

Expresses Appreciation of Elec-
tion by People and Legislature

PRaises THE PRIMARY

Refers to Congressional Attitude on Di-
rect Election and Predicts Nation-Wide
Victory for Democratic Party

The following eloquent address was delivered to the Legislature by United States Senator Nathan P. Bryan, following his formal election:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:—It is with great pleasure that I find myself able to be present on this occasion to express to you my sincere thanks for your election of me to be United States Senator. I realize that this action upon your part does not necessarily voice your individual choice, but that you are giving expression and legal effort to the result of the primary election recently held of which I was so fortunate as to be the nominee. This fact, so far from lessening, rather increases my appreciation of your action, because you are relieved from any responsibility in that you are acting merely as the agents of the people who have thus expressed their choice, and for the further reason that it leaves my responsibility as a public servant where I would prefer it—that is—direct to the people, who, through you, their public servants also, have given me my commission.

You, too, were nominated in a primary election, and I doubt not that there is just a little keener sense of responsibility to the people, and a little more determination to represent them and their interests than if you owed your election to a caucus, a convention or a few individuals. For myself I believe that the people have the right to express as directly as possible their choice for public officers as well as their will upon public questions.

Our system of primaries is the most satisfactory method of choosing public officials yet devised. It is true the law governing primary elections in this State might well be amended and changed so as more effectively and with less expense to register the will of the people; and, without assuming to act the role of adviser, I submit to you for your consideration that it is the duty of all lawmakers to throw around this system every possible protection against bribery and corruption, and if possible to make it less expensive. To that end Senator Fletcher and I have forwarded to each member of the Legislature a Senate document containing copies of acts of the legislatures of several States, which, in my opinion, it would be well for you to consider at this session of the Legislature.

But with all of its defects, and in spite of the fact that it has been found necessary to hold four primary elections to determine the choice of the Democratic party for the position to which you have just elected me, it is, I have no doubt, a source of satisfaction and relief to each and every one of you that your time has not been taken up in any degree in considering the election of a United States Senator; and it is likewise a matter for congratulation that the day is past when it is possible for the candidate selected by the Legislature of Florida to have brought in question his election. No investigating committees under this system are found necessary or deemed advisable to supervise or inquire into your selection. You are spared the time and bitterness and possible disgrace that they have come to other states in recent years.

In this connection it affords me much pleasure to say to you that the House of Representatives of Congress has passed a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States Senators by a direct vote of the people, and it is entirely within the range of probabilities that before this session shall have adjourned you will be given the opportunity of ratifying that constitutional amendment, and thus place Florida among the first of the State in carrying out one of the expressed promises of the Democratic platform adopted at Denver in obedience to a popular demand of all the people irrespective of party. It is noteworthy in this connection that the Republicans of the House of Representatives, notwithstanding the fact that at the last convention of the Republican party by a decisive vote the proposition to elect Senators by direct vote of the people was voted down, have joined with the Democrats in voting almost solidly for this constitutional amendment.

Not for many years has the prospect for a nation-wide victory for our party been so bright. A few days ago I had the pleasure of witnessing the installation into office of the third Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives since the war, and immediately the Democrats of the House of Representatives in Congress began to carry out in good faith the promises of our party, to bear in mind the tenet of our party, as old as the party itself of equal

(continued on page 4)